

In the Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Previously Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended): Lock pin with push-button-operated axial locking, comprising:

- a tubular body having radially outwards directed recesses;
- an actuating plunger in said tubular body and axially displaceable under spring loading;
- a plurality of rigid locking elements pointing in opposite directions which are mounted in said radially outwards directed recesses in the body and which are moved by pressure of said plunger, each of said plurality of rigid locking elements having at least one semi-circular claw-like portion arranged to interlock the plurality of rigid locking elements together in an interlocked position, the semi-circular claw-like portions when interlocked forming a pivot bearing shell; and

wherein a proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the semi-circular claw-like portions of the locking elements which form a pivot bearing shell for the bearing shaft, the bearing shaft formed by the proximate end tip of the actuating plunger sitting within the semi-circular claw-like portions and holding the plurality of rigid locking elements together in the interlocked position.

11. (Previously Presented): Lock pin according to Claim 10, wherein the locking elements are rigid, inflexible bodies.

12. (Canceled):

13. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 10, wherein the freely guided pivoting axis is positioned between the locking elements and is a bearing plunger displaceably guided under spring loading, in which the two locking elements pivotably engage, each by a guide web.

14. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 13, wherein the locking element consists of a block-shaped or rectangular body on the underside of which the guide web, substantially in the shape of a quadrant, is formed which engages pivotably in guide slot in the bearing plunger.

15. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 13, wherein the bearing plunger has a axial longitudinal guide in the lock pin.

16. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 10, wherein the bearing-axles of the locking elements are formed by substantially round pins formed on the inwards-facing ends of the locking elements and pivotably engaging in recesses in the bearing plunger displaceable under spring loading.

17. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 10, wherein the bearing-axles of the locking elements are formed by substantially round pins positioned parallel and spaced apart on the forward, free end of the plunger and engaging pivotably in slots in the end faces of the locking elements.

18. (Withdrawn): Lock pin according to Claim 17, wherein the plunger has on its forward,

free end two parallel fork-extensions circumscribing a recess in which two bearing-axles of the locking elements are pivotably held and wherein the fork-extensions engage seats in the bearing plunger guided under spring loading, and are thereby guided.

19. (Currently Amended) Lock pin with push-button-operated axial locking, comprising:
a tubular body having radially outwards directed recesses;
an actuating plunger in said tubular body and axially displaceable under spring loading;
locking elements pointing in opposite directions which are mounted in said radially outwards directed recesses in the body and which are moved by pressure of said plunger, each of said locking elements having at least one semi-circular claw-like portion arranged to interlock the locking elements together in an interlocked position, the semi-circular claw-like portions when interlocked forming a pivot bearing shell; and

wherein the locking elements interlock with each other and wherein a proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the semi-circular claw-like portions of the locking elements which form a pivot bearing shell for the bearing shaft, the bearing shaft formed by the proximate end tip of the actuating plunger sitting within the semi-circular claw-like portions and holding the locking elements together in the interlocked position.

20. (Previously Presented): Lock pin according to Claim 19, wherein the locking elements are rigid, inflexible bodies.

21. (Canceled):